

## Message Text

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ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

DRAFTED BY EA/K:RGRICH,JR.:JCM  
APPROVED BY EA - AMBASSADOR GLEYSTEN  
S/S-O - SGOLDSMITH  
P - MR. FORBES

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O 280019Z JUN 78 ZFF4  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 164005

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, KS, US

SUBJECT: THE KIM DONG-JO AFFAIR

REF: SEOUL 5533

1. DURING CALL BY ROK AMBASSADOR KIM YONG-SHIK ON  
UNDER SECRETARY NEWSOM JUNE 27, THE UNDER SECRETARY ASKED  
WHAT FURTHER STEPS WERE POSSIBLE TO RESOLVE THE  
KIM DONG-JO ISSUE IN A MANNER WHICH WOULD AVOID  
UNFORESEEABLE FURTHER PROBLEMS WITH THE CONGRESS, AND  
WHETHER DONG-JO'S RESIGNATION FROM THE BLUE HOUSE MIGHT  
OFFER OPPORTUNITY FOR SOME PRIVATE ACCOMMODATION.

2. AMBASSADOR KIM SAID THAT ROKG HAD CONCLUDED THAT  
JAWORSKI HAD DECIDED NOT TO PROCEED WITH SUBMISSION OF  
QUESTIONS TO KIM DONG-JO, SINCE IN MIDST OF DISCUSSIONS  
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TO THIS END HE HAD, WITHOUT INFORMING ROK EMBASSY (AND  
WITHOUT RESPONDING TO AMBASSADOR KIM'S EFFORT TO MEET WITH  
HIM), CALLED UPON THE CONGRESS TO CUT PL-480 AID. THE  
ROKG WAS PREPARED TO ACCEPT THE LOSS OF THE PL-480 AND  
FELT THE ISSUE WAS NOW CLOSED.

3. AMBASSADOR GLEYSTEN, WHO WAS ALSO PRESENT, POINTED

OUT THAT SEOUL'S JUDGMENT MAY BE TOO OPTIMISTIC. WE CANNOT FULLY JUDGE THE RAMIFICATIONS IN THE CONGRESS OF THE IMPLICATION THAT DISCUSSIONS HAVE BROKEN OFF AND THAT THE ROKG HAS NOTHING MORE TO SAY. A NUMBER OF IMPORTANT VOTES WILL OCCUR DURING THE NEXT FEW WEEKS, INCLUDING HOUSE VOTES ON THE PEACE CORPS, SENATE VOTES ON PL-480, AND BOTH HOUSE AND SENATE CONSIDERATION OF THE MUTUAL SECURITY AND ARMS TRANSFER PACKAGE. IN THIS CONNECTION IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO KNOW WHETHER THE PREVIOUS ROKG OFFER CONCERNING TESTIMONY FROM KIM DONG-JO STILL REMAINED ON THE TABLE.

4. AMBASSADOR KIM STRESSED THAT THE ROKG COULD NOT ACT UNDER DURESS OR THREAT AND THAT IT WAS DIFFICULT TO MAKE ANY FURTHER ACCOMMODATION FOLLOWING THE PUNITIVE HOUSE ACTION. DESPITE BEING PRESSED ON WHETHER THE OFFER MADE EARLIER WAS STILL OPEN, AMBASSADOR KIM DID NOT CONFIRM THAT IT WAS. IN CLOSING THE UNDER SECRETARY CONCLUDED THAT CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS ARE ADVERSE TO THE INTERESTS OF BOTH GOVERNMENTS, AND SINCE SOME INFORMATION FROM KIM DONG-JO SEEMS TO BE THE KEY TO UNLOCKING THIS PROBLEM WE HOPE FURTHER EFFORTS WILL BE MADE TO FIND A RESOLUTION.

5. COMMENT: WE HAVE NOTED A HAPTONG REPORT QUOTING A "RANKING FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL" IN SEOUL JUNE 27  
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TO THE EFFECT THAT THE KIM DONG-JO NEGOTIATIONS HAVE COMPLETELY BROKEN DOWN, AND THAT THE ROKG HAS NO INTENTION OF CONDUCTING ANY FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS EVEN IF THE U.S. CONGRESS SOFTENS ITS ATTITUDE. AMBASSADOR KIM SUGGESTED THIS REPRESENTED PRIVATE FEELINGS RATHER THAN AN OFFICIAL ROKG STATEMENT, BUT IT HIGHLIGHTS THE IMPORTANCE OF GETTING ON THE PUBLIC RECORD A MORE POSITIVE STANCE WHICH WILL ALLOW THOSE HERE WHO MAY BETTER APPRECIATE THE COMPLEXITIES OF THE CURRENT SITUATION TO REFER TO ROKG OFFERS. AT THE MINIMUM, WE NEED SEOUL TO REAFFIRM THAT THE PROPOSALS MADE A WEEK AGO REMAIN OPEN. WE MADE THIS VERY CLEAR TO AMBASSADOR KIM, BUT YOU SHOULD REINFORCE IT IN SEOUL.

6. WITH REGARD TO THE OTHER SUGGESTIONS IN REFTTEL, IT HAS BEEN OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT ROKG AND JAWORSKI HAD ALREADY REACHED AGREEMENT THAT QUESTIONS FOR KIM DONG-JO WOULD BE TRANSMITTED TO THE ROKG VIA THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE. QUESTION OF INTERMEDIARY FOR EXCHANGE OF QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS THEREFORE DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE AT ISSUE. ON THE BASIS OF RECENT CONVERSATIONS, WE DO NOT BELIEVE JUSTICE WOULD WISH TO TAKE OVER ROLE OF INTERMEDIARY AS

LONG AS JAWORSKI HAS NOT REMOVED HIMSELF FROM THE PICTURE.

7. IN ADDITION TO HAPTONG REPORT CITED ABOVE, WE HAVE HAD VARIOUS FRAGMENTARY PRESS VERSIONS OF STATEMENT MADE BY KIM DONG-JO AT TIME OF HIS RESIGNATION FROM THE BLUE HOUSE. WOULD APPRECIATE IT IF EMBASSY COULD SUPPLY US WITH FULLER TEXT AND ANY APPROPRIATE COMMENTS.

8. ALTHOUGH HOUSE LEADERSHIP HAS STATED THAT IT WILL NOT HOLD MILITARY ASSISTANCE HOSTAGE TO KIM DONG-JO ISSUE, ACTUAL DYNAMICS ON THE HILL ARE CLOUDED. SOME WHO RESENTED USE OF PL-480 TO EXERT POLITICAL PRESSURE WOULD RATHER ATTACK MILITARY CREDITS. IN AN ATMOSPHERE OF ROK REBUFF OF CONGRESS' ACTION, THERE COULD YET BE MULTIPLYING  
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EFFECTS ON THE OTHER KEY VOTES IN PERIOD IMMEDIATELY AHEAD. YOU SHOULD MAKE EVERY REASONABLE EFFORT TO BRING ROKG AROUND TO A RENEWED WILLINGNESS TO DEAL WITH THIS ISSUE DESPITE THE CONGRESSIONAL ACTION LAST WEEK. VANCE

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